GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5412
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2001
SMUGGLING SYNDICATE
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the diplomats in the Indian Embassy in Tashkent had sent a number of letters in May, 2000 to his Ministry giving details about the smuggling syndicate being run by Uzbek nationals who come to India on tourist visas;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the diplomats in Indian Embassy in Tashkent had also advised the Government to monitor and control their activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on those letters ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Embassy of India in Tashkent brought to the notice of the Government about misuse of visas by tourists coming to India from Uzbekistan and other CIS countries and indulging in undesirable activities like gold and drugs smuggling and prostitution.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Embassy requested the Government to sensitize all concerned agencies against the reported undesirable activities.

(e) Detailed instructions to conduct thorough checks on suspected CIS tourists coming through Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, were issued to Customs and Immigration Authorities, Delhi Police and other concerned agencies on 20.7.2001.